Bad River Natural Resource

COMMON GROUND

2021 SUMMER EDITION

Spring Fire Season Summary

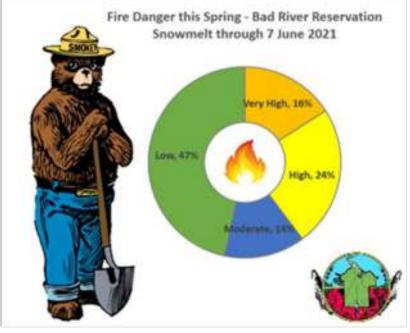
Nathan Kilger, Air Quality Specialist, Email: airquality@badriver-nsn.gov

pring came early this year with all of our snow melted by the second week of March. But then it was a cool and dry spring that didn't allow the trees and vegetation to turn green until all the new growth popped out and spring rains saturated the dry grasses in the middle of May.

Mashkiiziibii (Bad River) Natural Resource
Department monitors the fire danger levels across the area and on the Bad River Reservation, changes the Smokey
Bear sign along the highway in Odanah, and

maintains fire danger information on the Band's website. By adding up the days in each fire danger category here in Bad River, this pie graph was created to show how many days this spring had elevated fire danger here. By counting days, 40% were HIGH or VERY HIGH. That's a lot!

In the local area, there were 25 wildfires reported in Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties this spring. The average size of the reported fires in Bayfield and Iron counties were less than an acre each. In Ashland County the



average size was over 5 acres. Across these three counties a total of 53.1 acres burned.

Because of these elevated dangers this spring, the Bad River Reservation did issue a burning ban for 34 days, which was a little longer than a typical spring but was necessary to protect the communities here and the timber resources and environment surrounding our homes. Many thanks to everyone that refrained from having fires and was extra safe during

that period; as Smokey says, "only you can prevent wildfires".

The outlook for the summer months continues to highlight the likelihood of warmer- and drier-than-average conditions. Hopefully we'll have adequate rainfall, but drought conditions across southern Wisconsin and Minnesota have been slowly creeping north this spring. There is a threat we could see dry conditions here too and so we need to keep an eye on Smokey's Fire Danger sign and continue to be careful with fire.

Special points of interest:

- Spring Fire Season Summary
- Climate Change Specialist Introduction
- Forestry Updates
- POWTS Program Updates
- Lake Superior Days "Save the Date"
- Manoomin Program Updates
- Earth Day Raffle Winners

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Federal delisting and State law continue to threaten Ma'iingan

Abi Fergus, Wildlife Specialist - Wildlife@badriver-nsn.gov

n the Spring edition of Common Ground I provided an update of how a slaughter of Ma'iingan hosted by the state came about, killing over 218 wolves (hunters self reported and it is known that poaching has occurred and been emboldened by delisting and the state harvest season) and shooting far past the established quota for non-tribal members. Now we know roughly where those Ma'iinganag were killed and it is a silver lining to me that Mashkiiziibii Ma'iinganag remained safe. Wisconsin's Green Fire is a whistleblower organization comprised of many retired or former WDNR biologists that focuses on wildlife conservation in the State. In collaboration with Peter David of GLIFWC they put out a post season report pointing out some of the negative impacts of the Febru-

Following the January 4th federal removal of wolves from the Endangered Species List a chaotic series of events rapidly unfolded that featured conflicting opinions on how the state would comply with existing law. The decision by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to forgo a late winter harvest was reversed by a circuit court which ordered the agency to plan and initiate a harvest with less than 5 daysnotice, eliminating the opportunity to perform almost all the customary and necessary steps required to establish a season framework for use during the middle of the wolf breeding season. The last time wolves were hunted legally in Wisconsin in February was in 1956.

- During the February hunt wolves were removed primarily from core habitats on public lands where conflicts with pets, livestock or human safety are rare. Based on currently available information and our understanding of wolf populations and behavior, there is little evidence that the February 2021 wolf hunt will significantly reduce human wolf conflicts.
- Based on loss of bred females and alpha males, it is reasonable to estimate that 60-100 of Wisconsin's wolf packs may lose all pup production due to the February hunt. If this impact is realized it will represent 24-40% of the expected reproduction from 245 known wolf packs outside of Indian reservations in Wisconsin.
- The lack of consultation with Wisconsin Ojibwe Tribes over the February hunt failed to meet the state's responsibilities for meaningful consultation to assure tribes maintain their longstanding rights to natural re-

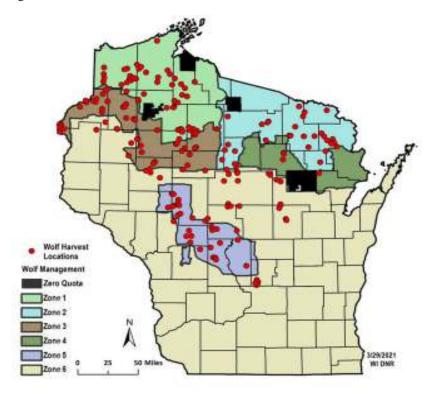


Figure 3. Harvest Locations For The February 2021 Wolf Season.

WDNR graphic depicted where wolves were killed this past February

sources within Ceded Territories. The relations between the State and the Wisconsin Ojibwe Tribes have been damaged and will take time repair.

• Despite current law requiring annual wolf harvests, the WDNR retains authority to establish quotas and, within statutory limits, to regulate the form, timing, and methods of harvest. The WDNR should use its authority more fully to prevent the kind of unwanted outcomes experienced in February from being repeated.

The full report can be found at: https://wigreenfire.org/2019/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/WGF-Cons-Bulletin-Feb-Wolf-Hunt-04-28-2021.pdf or by searching "WI Green Fire February Wolf Hunt Bulletin"

Being involved in trying to stop this violence and then minimize the harm since January has been hard, every week I have a nightmare that I am the wolf being hunted down by a party of men and dogs. I share this pain with the tribal community and fellow tribally and GLIFWC employed biologists. We need healing and direction to move forward as the state plans to host another harvest in the Fall, for which the Green Fire bulletin offers recommendations to reduce harm and to begin repairing relationships with the Tribes.

For our collective healing and direction I hosted a talking circle and wolf howl with the help of Aurora Conley last week. Stay tuned for other announcements on when we can come together to support additional healing and protection of Ma'iingan and Anishinaabe alike. I'd like to thank the community and tribal government for trusting in me to do this work for Ma'iingan- I would be more devastated if I didn't have so much opportunity to try and make a difference as this violence unfolds

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Bakaan Ingoji (Non Local Beings) Program Update

Brigid Reina Williams, Non Local Beings (NLB) Program Manager - nonlocalbeings@badriver-nsn.gov

appy Summer! I hope everybody is enjoying the sunshine and warm temps as much as the plants are. With an early spring this year, many plant communities started to pop up a few weeks ahead of schedule. The bakaan ingoji are no exception to this trend. Garlic mustard was noticed along the Bad River floodplain in Mellen the earliest anyone could remember. The good news is that NLB program is as vigilant as ever in our efforts to keep opportunistic plant communities at bay. In the past month we have hired on Noah Arbuckle as NLB Program Technician and Gregory Smart, Ethan Petushek, and Zakkary Zander as Natural Resources Aides. These four have been working tirelessly to survey and control bakaan ingoji on the reservation and Bad River floodplain.

The field season started off with a week of hand pulling garlic mustard alongside GLIFWC and NCWMA (Northwoods Cooperative Weed Man-

agement Area). Then the crew spent a few weeks weed whipping wild parsnip and burdock at the powwow grounds to keep it from going to seed. The next project will be surveying for Galerucella beetles. Galerucella beetles are an effective biocontrol method that has been successfully used for purple loosestrife man-



agement throughout the Northern U.S. as a biocontrol alternative to herbicide. Beetles were released on purple loosestrife plants at Bear Trap Creek in 2005 as a pilot and the Kakagon Sloughs in 2019. We will be checking in on beetle populations and moving some beetles from abundant sites to areas that could benefit from

more loosestrife control. After that, the crew will be spending most our time in the sloughs surveying and controlling aquatic plants such as cattail, curly leaf pondweed, and phragmites. Throughout the summer we will be continuing to keep our eyes peeled for any new bakaan ingoji populations while re-visiting previously treated sites.

Speaking of new bakaan ingoji populations, we are working hard to prevent any new outbreaks. Part of our prevention program includes conducting inspections for all contracted off road equipment

that enters the reservation or is moved from an area on reservation with a known bakaan ingoji infestation. This includes ATV's, UTV's, snowmobiles, backhoes, excavators, bull dozers, skid steers, tractors, trenchers, directional bore equipment, well drilling equipment, cranes, lifts, timber fiber matting, sheet piling, etc. Equipment must be properly cleaned by the contractor and inspected by the NLB program prior to the start of a project. Equipment such as trucks and trailers that remain on roads and driveways do not need to be inspected. Please call Brigid Reina Williams at (715) 292-8661 to schedule an inspection.

Gregory Smart and Berthea Olby (MNRD Outreach Coordinator) have been trained in as Clean Boats Clean Waters aquatic invasive species watercraft inspectors. Clean Boats Clean Waters is a statewide



team of volunteers and staff from a number of different local, state, and federal agencies whose main goal is to stop the spread of problematic aquatic plants. Berthea and Greg will be working at the Bad River Landing and Second Landing throughout the summer. They will be educating boaters and anglers, helping to perform boat and trailer checks, collecting data, and handing out informational brochures. Stop by to learn about aquatic bakaan ingoji and grab a sticker or brochure!

We're looking to hire one more NRS Aide, so if you or somebody you know loves to be outdoors or is looking to start a career in Natural Resources send them our way! More info about the NRS Aide position can be found on the "careers" page at www.badriver-nsn.gov or by emailing nonlocalbe-ings@badriver-nsn.gov.

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Intro to Radon

Daniel Wiggins, Air Quality Technician - air1@badriver-nsn.gov

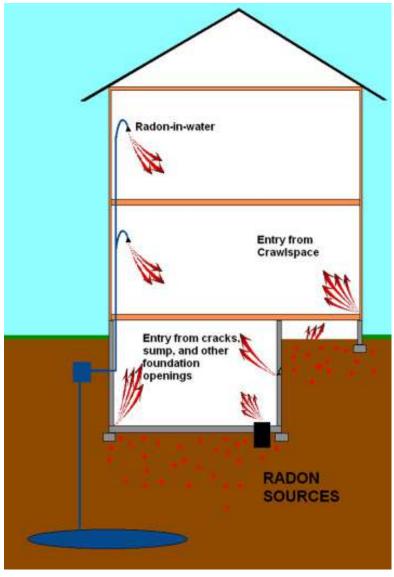
adon is related to over 20,000 radoninduced lung cancer deaths each year and is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Radon is formed when uranium, thorium, and radium naturally breakdown within bedrock and release radon gas into the soils, rock and water. It is ever-present and found in outdoor air and indoor air of every type of structure and seeps through entry-ways that include cracks and holes in basements, open crawlspaces, and openings in the foundations.

Once in the home radon continues to breakdown into radioactive particles that can be breathed in and enter the lungs airways. The particles continue to release energy that can then contribute to the development of lung cancer. The concentration and length of exposure are both factors in the risk towards development of radon-induced lung cancer, which onset of the disease may not be noticed for many years. In rare cases radon is found in water and through aeration can cause indoor radon levels to rise and pose a risk. Although radon in the air poses a greater risk, radon in water does present a risk of developing cancer within the internal organs, primarily stomach cancer.

Radon is a health hazard but there are solutions. And even though there is still no safe exposure level of radon, the risk can be lowered by reducing the radon levels in the home with proper radon reduction methods. The average indoor radon level is estimated at 1.3 pCi/L and outdoor at 0.4 pCi/L. Radon is everywhere! The EPA sets the action level of indoor radon levels at 4.0 pCi/L and recommended to homeowners that they fix their homes if levels are still found at 2 pCi/L and above.

The fortunate thing is homeowners can fix their homes with effective and efficient radon reduction methods. Still not many homeowners are prepared for the affects of radon, yet the rehabilitation to a home to lower it. There have been many radon reduction (mitigation) techniques attempted over the past decades, and are still several being used. The EPA realizes the complexity of radon reduction and has published the Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction

(https://www.epa.gov/radon/consumers-guide-radon-reduction-how-fix-your-home), which will help homeowners in locating the right contractor, understanding the right radon reduction method, and maintaining those systems after installation.



This and more information on radon can be found at https://www.epa.gov/radon.



The Bad River Tribe is fortunate to have a Radon Program with a certified technician that offers free measurement testing and radon services to Tribal Members. If you have any questions concerning radon, please contact Daniel Wiggins, Air Quality Technician, whose information is below.

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POWTS UPDATES

Eugene Bigboy Jr., POWTS Inspector - powts@badriver-nsn.gov

ur Bad River POWTS Program has been busy this spring assisting tribal members with different aspects of their POWTS journey. We have new applicants, we have potential new applicants working on obtaining their land or leases, we have clients who are in different stages of the POWTS process whether that be waiting for construction to begin at their sites, or clients working at their sites clearing, hauling, filling, etc. Along with all this activity there are the permits that need to be processed, site visits to monitor progress, paperwork, meetings so it is a very busy time of the year for POWTS. We

have five sites very close to the construction phase with wells, or mounds, or both going in this summer and some smaller jobs such as water line hookups, and well maintenance. If you are planning on building a new home or setting up a trailer, I would advise you to start ASAP as there is plenty to do. When looking for land to lease or purchase to build on I would strongly advise to carefully conduct visits to each site and do a walk through before applying for a lease. Things to look for are wetlands on the property, uplands on the property (to build on), location of power lines, etc.. It is a lot of extra work, but it could save

time and a lot of headaches down the road for you. Some of these things may also require environmental permits. In closing I have some good news, the Ashland IHS Office is open once again and is providing technical and engineering services to Bad River and other surrounding reservations. Robert "Bobbers" Powless is an engineering specialist working in the Ashland Office and serves the Ashland IHS Service Area.

Thanks and Have a Great Summer!

Eugene Bigboy Sr.

2021 Earth Day Gelebration Prize Winners

Inflatable Kayak Inflatable Row-Boat Wheel Barrow & Lawn Rake **Bird Bath** Fire Pit Ring Mini Wheel Barrow **Green Flippers/Goggle Set** Pink Flippers/Goggle Set Blue Flippers/Goggle Set **Hose & Attachment Black Fishing Pole Set Blue Fishing Pole Set Metal Thermometer** 3pk Citrinella Candle 3pk Citrinella Candle Purple Hula Hoop w/ Chalk Blue Hula Hoop Yellow Hula Hoop w/ Chalk Pink Hula Hoop Pink Bug Net Blue Bug Net w/ chalk **Purple Bug Net Green Sandcastle set** Red Sandcastle Set **Deluxe Kids Rake Set Deluxe Kids Rake Set Deluxe Kids Rake Set** Mini Bug Zapper Mini Bug Zapper

Rayonah Whitebird Lynn Bigboy Sarah Principato Mary Kaulity Stanley Bowman Marissa Lemieux Rochelle Bellcourt Nadine Oja **Bill Roundwind** Barb Zaari **Dalton Stone Donald Tourtillott Yvette King** Mike Wiggins Louis Plucinski Jennifer Warren **Quinn Mayotte Audrey Nelis-Stone** Kehlani Powless **Novalee Stone Nora Adams** Liviana Goggleye **Nisway Smart** Jaxon Pino **Draxton Tourtillott** Kaniya Bates **Kowiy Willis Ashley Bates Dylan Jennings**

Jumbo Wall Thermometer 6pc. Mess Kit **Pahto Pouch Sapphire** Pahto Pouch Banana **Apostle Islands Frame** LS Water Bottle (Glows) LS Water Bottle (Glows) Luci Candle w/ Enamel Mug Luci Candle w/ Enamel Mug **Towels & Enamel Mug Basketball Basketball** Soccer Ball Soccer Ball **Orange Snorkle Set Green Snorkle Set** Blue Squirter w/ Football **Green Squirter w/ Football** Goggles **Stomp Rocket Game Googly Eye Toss Game** Pickle Ball Set Bananza Sprinkler Kids Lawn Chair **Kids Lawn Chair** HulaHoop w/ Squirter Pink hulahoop w/ Squirter **Squirt Gun**

Esie Leoso Adam Oia Olivia Houle **Lourace Couture Cheryl Pero** Jack Corbine **Patience Bigboy** Tino Redhouse **Duane Soulier Candy White** Dawson Gustufson Art Schenk Randy Fizell **Corrin Kangas** Florence Powless Tia Burns Sue Shubat **Aislev Wilmer** Sam Houle Waasamowin Hartley **Felicity Odum** Jackson Rose Micah Stone **Dakota Szwarek** Russell Blanchard Ali Nevela **Amarie Cadotte** Ezra Leoso

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Job Opportunities in MNRD

- ♦ Piping Plover Monitor LTE
- **♦** Commercial Fisheries Observer LTE
- ♦ Natural Resources Aide(s) NLB LTE
- **♦** Water Resources Specialist FULL TIME
- **♦** Wetlands Specialist FULL TIME

^{*}To see Full Job Description visit: http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/carrers

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Manoomin Work Group (MWG) Planning; 2 Tribal Council members, Tribal Depts, Tribal members

Dan Powless, Manoomin Oshkaabewis - manoomin@badriver-nsn.gov

Boozhoo,

The MWG (Manoomin Workgroup) has been given the task of providing guidance and feedback for the creation of a new Manoomin Management Plan (Plan) for the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs and all potential manoomin (wild rice) waters on the Bad River Reservation. This will include making the necessary updates and revisions to the current draft 2007 management plan in terms of best science and a culturally significant perspective.

The current draft Plan identifies 13 broad issues affecting the health of wild rice and 5 main objectives to meet our goal of managing the wild rice in the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs for the next seven generations. Although the draft Plan was never finalized, the Department has been integrating these rec-

ommendations into workplans, grant proposals, the revisions to the Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP), and the Seventh Generation Climate Change Monitoring Plan approved in 2016. My position was created after the draft Plan so Manoomin Oshkaabewis will coordinate with other NRD programs, tribal departments, or others on Plan revisions and implementation.

It is my goal to make the revised and updated version be a steppingstone to a greater and more complete understanding of our relationship with Manoomin through TEK. The updated Plan will identify objectives, priorities, and goals to guide MNRD's work and the community efforts on Manoomin monitoring, protection, management, and restoration.

Many newer technologies will be utilized, including using drones to assess muskrat presence and vegetative cover changes. Water sampling studies will continue and may be expanded to test for other factors. One example is that our Fisheries Program has been collaborating with US Fish and Wildlife Service to implement a more intensive sampling plan related to lampricides.



Climate change patterns will be integrated into the Plan, including evaluation of nutrient dynamics over time, to help guide and prioritize our future wild rice management decisions.

Some work has already begun. A slow/no-wake ordinance has already been implemented by both the Tribe and Town of Sanborn, and enforcement issues are being worked out. We have already had two feasts with the community to bring our efforts to their attention; a guest that showed up told us this was beautiful. Forty-one (41) muskrat houses have returned to the NE Slough (many are at least double in size, indeed the biggest I've seen) so Wazhashk is ready to do his part also.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge concepts and cultural connections will also be integrated into the Plan. How we understand and interact with Manoomin in the Great Lakes needs to be understood, not only today but also in the past. Elders and knowledge holders will be an invaluable component to this plan as it will encompass prayer, teachings, songs, ceremonies, offerings, stories, laughter, respect, joy, health, history, families, games, beings, and self-existence. Ojibwe language will need to be embraced and included in the plan. Community as a whole will need to be included. This is Our work.

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2021 PLANTING DAYS HAVE BEGUN!

By Gena Abramson, Forestry Specialist - forestry@badriver-nsn.gov

The last half of May was very busy for Bad River Forestry as multiple projects were underway. For the second year in a row, Timberland Forestry brought and planted 40,000 White Pine and 2,500 Silver maple. This year they also planted 2,500 Sugar maple in two locations on the Bad River Reservation.

One of the locations that White pine and Sugar maple were planted is just south of Waverly off of Lake Road north of US Hwy 2. Hopefully, this endeavor will lead

to bountiful raptor nesting opportunities and sugar maple sap (ziinzibaakwadwaboo) harvesting opportunities for future generations of Bad River tribal members.

The other site where White pine and Sugar maple were planted is located off of Potato River Road just north of the 2016 washout site (where the road was re-routed around the wink's creek). There, among the maidenhair fern and jack-in-the-pulpit, bountiful opportunities exist to have alternate species take over when the aspen is harvested. Along the lowlands, in areas that transition between wetland and upland, 2,500 silver maple were planted. This addition should help mitigate the added soil

moisture and cover loss when black ash succumbs to Emerald Ash Borer infestation (which is expected to occur in the relatively near fu-







Mark Arbuckle
Bad River Forestry's 2021 Crew Leader

ture).

In addition to the contracted tree planting that took place in May, we hired a forestry crew leader to oversee our own tribal planting operations this summer.

Mark Arbuckle joined the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources team as an LTE and has done a great job of searching out potential planting sites for his planting crew.

Over most of the summer, Mark and two other tribal members (Craig Bigboy and Michael Leoso) will be in charge of planting 15,000 more trees. Those seedlings will consist of Yellow birch, White cedar, and Canadian hemlock.

We also will be getting some planting help from one of last

Continued on page 11..

Flowers of the Forest - Spring/Summer

Jessica Strand, Environmental Specialist - Environmental@badriver-nsn.gov

he summer is officially here with the last few weeks of warmer, dry weather and we're seeing a seasonal shift in what is blooming in our woods and fields. Following are just some of the flowers encountered during various MNRD staff field work this spring and beginning of summer and a short description of each.



Misudidjeebik or wild red columbine (Aquilegia canadensis) is a woodland native wild flower with red bell-like flowers that are a favorite of hummingbirds and insects with tongues long enough to reach the nectar inside. This flower blooms May through July and can be found in drier open wooded areas. According to Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa (GLIFWC, 2003) "in traditional medical practices the root was used for stomach trouble."



Pennsylvania bitter-cress (Cardamine pensylvanica) is a member of the mustard family native to Wisconsin and whose flowers are often overlooked because they are so small.



Aemaushtaunishaessiwung or cutleaved toothwort (Cardamine concatenata) is a spring wildflower that blooms prior to the maple-basswood forests where it grows leafing out. Is has small delicate, drooping white flowers and deeply parted and toothed. According to Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa (GLIFWC, 2003) the thicker parts of the roots were harvested for food. The cut-leaved toothwort in this picture is the taller plant with the white flowers and toothed leaflets; also in the picture is spring beauty (Claytonia virginica) which is the shorter plant with the pink -stripped flowers and smooth-edged leaves.

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Flowers of the Forest - continued...



Numaegbugoneen or trout lily (Erythronium americanum) is often one of the first spring ephemeral wildflowers in bloom, covering the upland woods where it grows with a carpet of mottled leaves and yellow flowers. These large colonies can be up to hundreds of years old and the plants take seven years to mature enough to bloom. Almost all part of the trout lily are edible: leaves, flower, and the corm (bulb)—however large quantities will make you throw up and pregnant women should avoid consuming them. According to Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa (GLIFWC, 2003) no specified use was reported for the Great Lakes Ojibwa though they were harvested; neighboring tribes report using the smashed roots as a poultice to reduce swell-



Ojidimo Miskishmandaumin or Dutchman's Breeches (Dicentra cucullaria) is another spring wildflower that blooms before the trees leaf out with white flowers shaped like old-time pantaloons. This flower is often found in sugar maple hardwood forest understory with spring beauty, leeks, and trout lilies. According to Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa (GLIFWC, 2003) no specified use was reported for the Great Lakes Ojibwa though they were harvested; neighboring tribes report using a compound infusion from the leaves as a muscle rub for runners.

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Introducing New Climate Change Specialist

y name is Mariah Hipsher and I am the new Climate Change Specialist with the MNRD. I am originally from Washburn, WI but have now settled in Ashland, WI. Me and my husband and son Dylan live on the reservation and love this area and being so close to Lake Superior. I started this position in April 2021 and have been working on a culvert inventory within the reservation to asses flood and high water risk. Making sure we don't lose critical roads like we did in the 2016 flood. I

also have been working on a HydroBio project which involves sensors to be installed on the Bad River and in the Kakagon Sloughs to gather data. Everyone in the department is amazing and has given me a great welcome here.

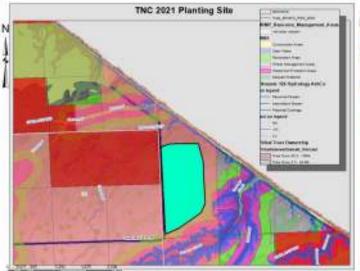
Email: climate@badriver-nsn.gov

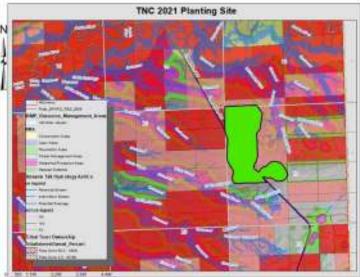


Forestry continued....

year's tree planters, Erica Toman. She has been hired as a WTCAC (Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council) Intern for Bad River and Red Cliff. Erica will also be instrumental in the deployment and bi-weekly checking of EAB and Gypsy Moth traps.

Volunteers are welcomed to contact Bad River Forestry for opportunities to plant alongside this great team. No one will be turned down the opportunity to invest in Bad River's future generations!





BAD RIVER EMERGENCY ALERTING & NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



Dear Community,

The Bad River Tribe wants you and your family to be safe and informed during emergencies in our area. These may include public safety threats, dangerous weather, and traffic advisories. Information is key, and we strongly encourage you to sign up to receive text message alerts directly from Bad River.

Registering for alerts is easy — simply text your BADRIVER to 888777 and you'll be informed and instructed when necessary. For help with signing up, please call 715-682-7111 and we will take your information over the phone

TEXT YOUR BADRIVER TO 888777 TO SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

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Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department

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~MISSION STATEMENT~

The Department strives for resource management which both conserves the natural resources for the future generations and provide for the needs of the present. The departments existence reflects the importance the Bad River Tribe places on its right and ability to exercise sovereignty, self-determination and self-regulation in the area of natural resource management.

Were on the Web! Visit www.badriver-nsn.gov

